

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 01152 231322Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
-----107601 231454Z /47 R

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8902

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 1152

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PINS, UN, IN

SUBJECT: AIR SECURITY: INDIA'S ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 18096 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAS RAISED THE SUBJECT OF INDIA'S RATIFICATION OF THE MONTREAL AND HAGUE CONVENTIONS WITH RESPONSIBLE OFFICER OF MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION, S. EKAMBARAM, AND WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION, A.K. SARKAR. BOTH CONFIRMED INFORMATION IN REFTEL THAT GOI WAS PROCEEDING WITH ENACTMENT OF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION TO PERMIT RATIFICATION OF HAGUE CONVENTION. ACCORDING TO EKAMBARAM, BILL WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO NEXT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, AND WOULD BE ADOPTED BEFORE THAT SESSION ENDS IN EARLY MAY. SARKAR SAID THIS BILL WOULD PROBABLY HAVE MOVED FORWARD LAST YEAR EXCEPT FOR HIS OWN ILLNESS AND THE PRESS OF OTHER LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS FOLLOWING THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT.

2. BOTH OFFICIAL SALSO CONFIRMED THAT STEPS LEADING TO RATIFICATION OF MONTREAL CONVENTION HAD JUST BEGUN. EMBOFF URGED UPON BOTH THAT THIS PROCESS BE HANDLED EXPEDITIOUSLY SO THAT GOI ACTION COULD HAVE MAXIMUM IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

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3. AIRPORT SECURITY: SAKAR INFORMED EMBOFF THAT GOI HAD CREATED A NEW POST OF CHIEF COORDINATOR OF CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY: SENIOR POLICY OFFICIAL WOULD ENTER ON DUTY IN THAT POSITION WEEK OF JANUARY 16. THIS ACTION RESULTED FROM THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON AIR SECURITY WHICH HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE WAKE OF THE JAL HIJACKING OUT OF BOMBAY. EMBOFF REITERATED PAST

OFFERS OF US ASSISTANCE IN AIR SECURITY FIELD AND SARKAR REPLIED THAT CHIEF COORDINATOR WOULD BE LOOKING INTO THE QUESTION WITH INTEREST AFTER HE SETTLED IN.

4. SARKAR INFORMED EMBOFF THAT DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED METAL DETECTORS WERE NOW AVAILABLE FOR INSTALLATION IN AIRPORTS AND THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WAS LOOKING INTO OBTAINING X-RAY MACHINES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD LIKE TO ESTABLISH DIRECT CONTACT WITH NEW SECURITY COORDINATOR IN A FEW WEEKS. FOR THAT PURPOSE WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON SECURITY TRAINING FACILITIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE POSSIBLE TRAVEL OF SECURITY SPECIALISTS TO INDIA FOR SHORTTERM EVALUATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS. CATALOGUES OF PRINTED OR AUDIO VISUAL MATERIAL AVAILABLE IN THE AIR SECURITY FIELD WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IN OUR INITIAL CONTACTS.

GOHEEN

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